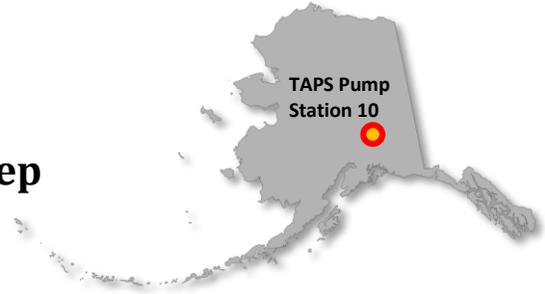




ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program

SITUATION REPORT



TAPS PS-10 Electrical Isolation Joint Weep

SITREP # 1

SPILL #: 15309914902

TIME/DATE OF DISTRIBUTION: 3:00 p.m. June 5, 2015

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PRP): Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC)

INCIDENT LOCATION: Pump Station 10 is located along the Richardson Highway Milepost 219 (Trans-Alaska Pipeline Systems [TAPS] Pipeline milepost 585.91). Pump Station 10 has been out of service since 1998; however, the station is being used today to support operations along the TAPS.

TIME/DATE OF SPILL: APSC employees discovered the spill along the Pump Station 10's main line at 5:00 p.m. on May 29, 2015. APSC reported a slow weeping of crude oil from a fitting on the TAPS main line to ADEC at 5:15 p.m. on the same day.

TYPE/AMOUNT OF PRODUCT SPILLED: The spilled product from the isolation fitting just north of TAPS Pump Station 10 is Alaska North Slope (ANS) crude oil. This is based on the laboratory sample results. The initially weep rate was about one drip per second. Oil had accumulated within the tar membrane/packing material that covered the coupling and dripped from the fitting once the soil surrounding the pipe was removed. When the tar membrane and tar were removed from the pipe, no active weeping was immediately observed. However, small dampened areas started to appear at a later time on the coupling surface, indicating weeping from the joint was still active. APSC estimates approximately 10 gallons have been released, with minor weeping continuing.

CAUSE OF SPILL: The release was found during excavations to investigate a corrosion inspection anomaly in a separate location along the main line. APSC personnel then discovered discolored gravel at the electrical isolation joint.

SOURCE CONTROL: Source control has not been achieved due to the nature and location of the source. Plans are currently being developed to achieve source control. The source of the spill has been determined as an isolation fitting installed on the TAPS 48-inch mainline. The purpose of the isolation fitting was to electrically isolate the mainline and facility piping cathodic protection systems to provide optimal corrosion protection. This fitting was installed during the initial pipeline construction. Currently, the isolation fitting is not needed due to upgrades to the cathodic protection systems and has been electrically bypassed.

RESPONSE ACTION: APSC personnel have removed contaminated gravel that is accessible and continues to contain and recover any additional oil weeping from the fitting. APSC is monitoring the area on a 24-hour basis to ensure the leak rate is not increasing. APSC response equipment is on-site for immediate use if the weep increases. If conditions warrant, the isolation joint can be isolated by closing the surrounding mainline block valves.

RESOURCES AT RISK OR AFFECTED: Gravel adjacent to failed isolation fitting.

FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: APSC is developing source control and cleanup plans for ADEC's review and approval. ADEC will continue to monitor the response actions. It is unknown at this time if shutting down the TAPS is necessary to complete the repairs. APSC will continue to work closely with the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office to identify and correct the cause of the release, as well as developing protocols for assessing other 21 isolation fittings located along the TAPS system.

WEATHER: Today: Cloudy early then partly cloudy and windy this afternoon; highs 62°F; south-southwest winds at 20 to 30 mph. Tomorrow: Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds; highs around 65°F; south-west winds at 5 to 10 mph.

UNIFIED COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

Incident Commander: John Baldrige, APSC

SOSC: Tom DeRuyter, ADEC

Field SOSC: Wesley Ghomley, ADEC

TIME/DATE OF THE NEXT REPORT DISTRIBUTION: As the situation warrants.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom DeRuyter, SOSC, ADEC (907) 451-2145

http://www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sr_active.htm



*Aerial photo of Pump Station 10, located along the Delta River by Richardson Hwy Milepost 219.
(Source: <http://www.fluor.com/projects/oil-pipeline-alyeska-trans-alaska-epc>)*

AGENCY/STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION LIST: This situation report was distributed to the agencies listed on the standard distribution list, which includes the governor's office, Senator Sullivan's office, State Emergency Operations Center, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other state agencies. This situation report was also distributed to the following agencies and stakeholders:

AGENCY / STAKEHOLDER	NAME	SENT VIA	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	TELEPHONE	FAX
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Senate S	Lyman Hoffman	Email	senator.lyman.hoffman@akleg.gov	465-4453 543-3541	465-4523 543-3542
House 39	Neal Foster	Fax	Representative.neal.foster@akleg.gov	465-3789 443-5036	465-3242 443-2162
House 38	David Guttenberg	Email	representative.david.guttenberg@akleg.gov	465-4457 456-8172	465-3519 456-2490
Alaska State Troopers	Galena	Fax		656-1233	656-1530
Alaska State Troopers	Fairbanks	Fax		451-5100 or (800) 478-9300	451-3002
USCG-Sector /ANC	USCG-Anchorage	Fax		428-4100	428-4114
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Dept of Law Attorney General Office	Steven Mulder	Fax/Email	Steve.mulder@alaska.gov	269-5274	278-7022
Tanana Chiefs Conference	Bill Justice (Environmental Health Dir.)	Fax		452-8251 x 3433	459-3989